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CITY PAGES

— My Summer Job —

The Comix Issue

MULLEN Southside slumlord *p. 6*

FOOD Ballpark eats, hold the meats *p. 19*

FILM *Crazy Rich Asians* *p. 29*

Avión Silver Paloma

AVIÓN TEQUILA

CALLS FOR: 1.5oz Avión Silver, 3/4oz grapefruit liqueur, 2oz fresh grapefruit, 1/2oz fresh lime, 1/4oz simple syrup, pinch of sea salt, top with soda

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HOBBIES: Video games, canoeing, playing sports with friends, being outside

BEST HANGOVER CURE: More drinking, mimosas and bloody marys

BEST WAY TO GET SERVED MORE QUICKLY: Having money out and ready

WHAT IS YOUR ESTABLISHMENT KNOWN FOR: the "Got Moxy" rum punch upon hotel check-in

WHAT IS THE NEXT BIG TREND IN COCKTAILS: Moving away from rail liquor towards craft spirits, educating people on different options

SAGE BARTENDER ADVICE: You're never done making a cocktail until everything is back where it belongs - clean up while you go!

BARTENDER OF THE WEEK

Zach

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CITY PAGES

August 15-21, 2018

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AUGUST 19 — THE SMASHING PUMPKINS
AUGUST 24 & 25 — JOYCE MEYER MINISTRIES
SEPT. 11 & 12 — BRUNO MARS
SEPTEMBER 18 — MAROON 5
SEPTEMBER 19 — USA HOCKEY ALL-AMERICAN PROSPECTS GAME
SEP. 28 & 29 — JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE
OCTOBER 5 — LYNYRD SKYNYRD
OCTOBER 7 — SESAME STREET LIVE! LET'S PARTY!
OCTOBER 18 — FOO FIGHTERS
OCTOBER 21 — TWENTY ØNE PILØTS
OCTOBER 22 — FLEETWOOD MAC
NOVEMBER 2 — JOSH GROBAN
DECEMBER 6-9 — DISNEY ON ICE 100 YEARS OF MAGIC
DECEMBER 12 — BOB SEGER

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See slices of the 2018 Pizza Luce Block Party
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ANDY WITCHGER

THE STAT SHEET

1

Minnesota's per capita ranking for girls participation in high school sports, the best of any state.

40

Percentage of Republicans who want to give President Trump the power to shut down the media.

-22%

Minneapolis' decline in violent crime so far this year.

20%

Spike in the federal deficit this year following the Republican tax cut bill.

> "They are claiming to have proof, but refuse to show it. This is fishier than Red Lobster on a Friday during Lent."

Reader Brian Bakerman responds to "Keith Ellison denies domestic abuse accusation," at citypages.com.

GREEN POWER

THERE IS FABULOUS NEWS for Minnesotans with a fondness for Mother Nature, or simply an appreciation of high-paying jobs: The clean energy industry is now the state's fastest growing employer.

Some 59,000 people are working in everything from solar panel installation to manufacturing energy-efficient windows to developing fuel cells. That's six times the number of jobs produced by the fossil fuel industry.

Better yet, the average wage in green work is $71,000 annually, 42 percent higher than the state average. It appears that being nice to Mother Nature is not only good for our children, but it's far more lucrative than doing our best to smite her.

POPULAR STORIES
AT CITYPAGES.COM

Minneapolis bar **LAST CALL** defends dress code would-be customer called "racist"

WCCO RADIO tests an ugly, right-wing mid-morning future

Minnesota Rep. **JASON LEWIS** equates gay couples to rapists

MILKJAM CREAMERY taking over south Minneapolis' iconic Dave's Popcorn

New Minneapolis **PARK BOARD** members propose to triple their pay

'MEDICALLY KIDNAPPED'

A demanding mom meets a Mayo Clinic that won't back down

GLEN STUBBE

Alyssa Gilderhus, a high school senior with cropped hair and a large bandage on her neck, passed through the automatic doors at Mayo Clinic. The Sherburn teen was rolling along in a wheelchair, her eyes straight ahead.

It was February of last year. She was recovering from an emergency surgery—the result of a Christmas Day aneurysm that left her curled on the bathroom floor, vomiting and screaming for her mother.

Now, the Rochester hospital was letting her roll to the parking lot to visit her Great-Grandma Betty, who was too frail to go inside.

The van was waiting only yards away. But Grandma Betty wasn't there. Alyssa's mother, Amber Engebretson, arrived instead.

Alyssa hadn't seen her mother in a while. Amber had been butting heads with Mayo's rehab staff throughout her daughter's recovery regimen.

She protested when they took her off oxycodone, saying Alyssa was still in too much pain. Then she said her daughter's breathing tube was the wrong size, and that her family discovered a bladder infection doctors had missed.

Amber says she had reams of unanswered questions, possible conditions left untested, but Mayo staff just wouldn't listen.

On Feb. 22, Amber and a nursing aide had it out. Amber asked that the aide be kicked off her daughter's care team—the fourth staffer she'd asked to be booted in three weeks. Later that afternoon, she interrupted a staff meeting, saying they were talking about her family, and that she should be included.

Mayo was clearly tired of her meddling. An hour later, three security guards kicked Amber out of the hospital. She was no longer allowed to enter the property or make any decisions regarding Alyssa's care.

So Amber hatched a plan for her daughter to flee.

As Alyssa left the hospital that day, Mayo staffers realized what was happening. They protested, grabbed Alyssa's arm. The family lowered Alyssa into a seat and shut the door. The van sped away.

Mayo security immediately called 911 and told police that a patient had been abducted. Alyssa and her family say the exact opposite is true, that Mayo had held her against her will.

After all the disputes, they'd asked to move her to another hospital. They even had a lawyer request an "expedited transfer." Eventually, they decided to take matters into their own hands. They caught the entire escape on video.

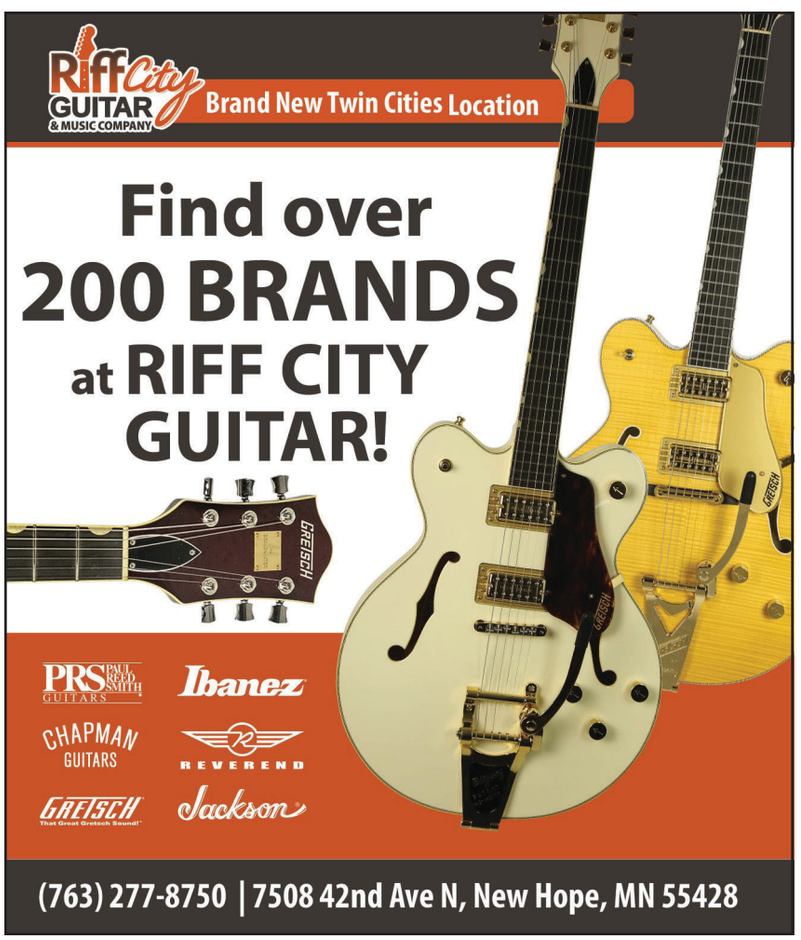
But all this was moot, according to the Rochester police. Alyssa is 18, an adult fully capable of making her own decisions. They refused to bring her back.

The hospital hasn't responded to interview requests, but records say a psychiatrist determined Alyssa lacked the capacity to make her own medical decisions. It's within the hospital's rights to ice out a family member if staff believe they're jeopardizing the patient's care, a Mayo spokesperson told CNN.

Alyssa's family says they stumbled upon another wrinkle in the case while going through police records. Before the great escape, a Mayo social worker had requested emergency guardianship for her. If they hadn't busted her out, Alyssa's parents say, they might have risked losing parenting rights over their daughter.

Alyssa says she's just happy to be out. The moment she hit that car seat, she said, was "phenomenal."

"The longer I'm away from Mayo Clinic, the better." —HANNAH JONES



The Gaslighting Landlord

John Klinkner's apartment renters can't win—until they take him to court

Mike Mullen

Last fall, after graduating from college, Sarah fell for a "super cute" place she found on Craigslist.

She says she met landlord John Klinkner at a south Minneapolis apartment complex last September. When they got inside, something was off. The "disgusting" studio wasn't what she'd seen on Craigslist. Where were the french doors from the photo?

Noting her disinterest, Klinkner offered her a one-bedroom in the same building. This one at least had a decent kitchen and a dishwasher. Sarah, who doesn't want her real name used for fear of reprisal, shrugged off a missing door. Parts had been ordered, she was assured.

The place was in her price range ($900), the location was good, and she was tired of living at her parents' home in Edina. Her mother helped her move in a week later.

Mom didn't like what she saw. The two spent hours scrubbing floors and wiping surfaces, she recalls. The showerhead leaked and the tub wasn't draining. Her mother bumped into an acquaintance outside the building, someone who knows the neighborhood well. "Good luck with the landlord," the woman told her.

Take notes, mom told her daughter. Write down everything that goes wrong and every interaction you have. Ten months later, Sarah has pages and pages.

"Maintenance never showed up," she wrote on October 11, despite the apparent promise for someone to come fix her shower drain. Then, a few days later: "Tub half full."

Later that month: "42 [degrees] out @ 10 PM and NO HEAT."

Twice, water leaked through her ceiling. The second time it took more than a week for someone to show up. The landlord sent painters to give the ceiling damage a cosmetic cover.

In July, Sarah got a note from a property manager, informing her that her rent would increase to $995 effective October 1 due to "higher costs and expenses." She called to ask about getting out of her lease. She also decided to do some research.

She Googled "John Klinkner," and found a wealth of complaints dating back years. It all sounded familiar: apartments in need of basic maintenance, buildings without functioning heat or air conditioning, unresponsive management team, John's alleged habit of telling renters his name is "Dan," while "Mary," the woman who answers the phone, is actually his wife, Kathy.

Sarah felt duped, and more than a little naive. "I didn't even think slumlords were a real thing," she says.

As of 2016, Klinkner rented out at least 149 apartments in Minneapolis, plus a complex called "Uptown West Apartments" in St. Louis Park and another called "Georgetown Manor" in Excelsior. Klinkner contends that "99 percent of our renters are really happy," and that the only ones who complain are people he's evicted.

Court records tell a different story. Klinkner has been sued or taken to small-claims court dozens of times.

In 2009, Emiko Whitaker-Kawada rented a St. Louis Park unit. She had to clean her entire apartment before moving in, including what looked like mold growing in a sink and tub. One night she woke up so cold she could see her breath. When she called to complain, she was told to "bleed out the radiator," something that hadn't been explained or demonstrated when she moved in. At the end of her lease, the "unpleasant" Klinkner offered only a partial refund of her security deposit, citing "damage" to the apartment.

In court, she used photos to show the disrepair on the day she moved in. The proceeding, over an amount of less than $1,000, dragged on for close to two years. "I kept going because of the principle," Whitaker-Kawada says. It wasn't financially worth the time, but she's since been contacted by other Klinkner renters seeking advice on winning their money back. "I want to spread his name around... as much as I can."

In 2016, Galina Peterson brought a "laundry list" of complaints, from peeling paint to broken plumbing, to attorney Dick Cohen, a DFL legislator representing St. Paul. Petersen's Linden Hills apartment had, on separate occasions, lacked heat for more than a week in the dead of winter.

"Landlord has been contacted and begun to hang up the phone," reads a note in Cohen's folder.

At the end of her stay, Klinkner claimed a chunk of the security deposit. She'd installed the wrong fuse, he alleged, after blowing the first one by running a space heater to keep warm. She'd also tried putting vegetables down a sink that didn't drain properly. Klinkner was charging for the repair of "stuff that he'd caused," says Cohen, whose client eventually took a settlement.

Klinkner is unrepentant. "You don't know the whole story. If there's a problem, they're the ones that cause the problem." Then he broke off the interview. "I'm right in the middle of traffic right now. I don't have time for this. I'll call back."

He didn't.

Sarah plans to leave once the lease runs out, though she's finding it hard to land a decent place in her price range.

She's also concerned about an acquaintance who just moved into her building. The woman was anxiously awaiting the return of the deposit from her last apartment, money she needed, but says she was given the wrong mail key. When she called to ask for the right one, she was accused of losing her key and lying about it. The experience soured her on bringing up complaints; she's not optimistic about getting a poorly functioning air conditioning unit replaced.

"And I just moved in this month," she says. "There's probably more stuff that's going to happen, unfortunately."

Ten months after she moved in, the cabinet in Sarah's kitchen is still missing a door. She doesn't expect to see it fixed before she moves out. CP

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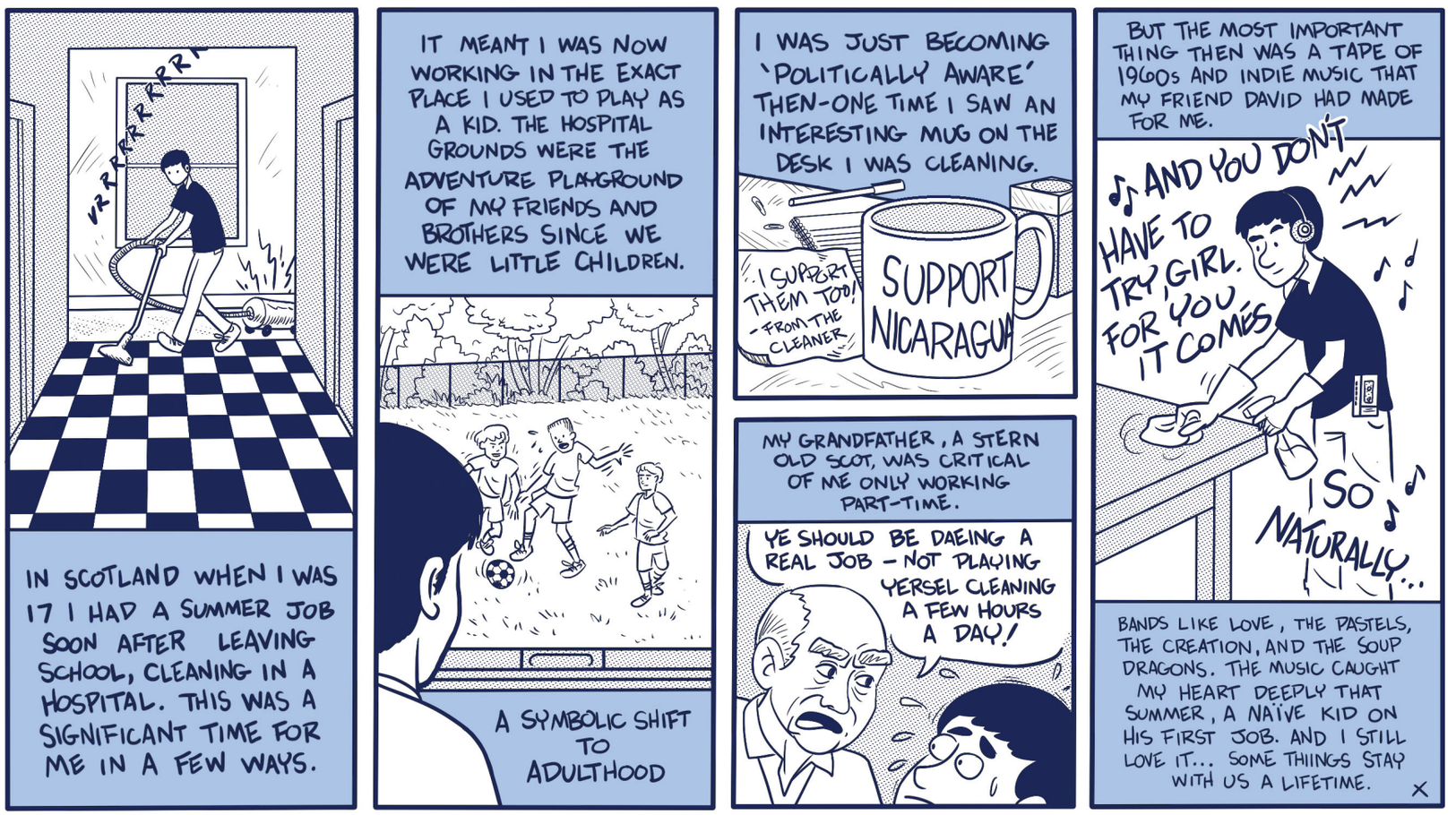

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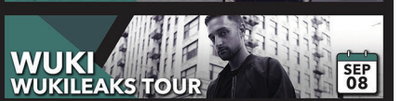

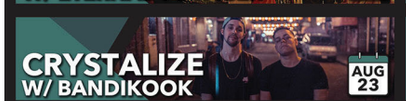

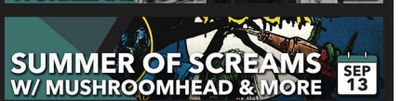

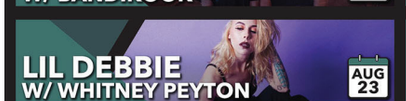

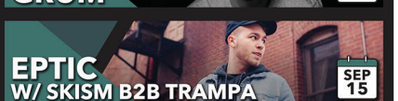

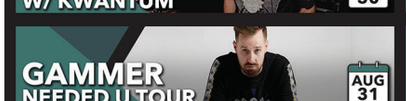

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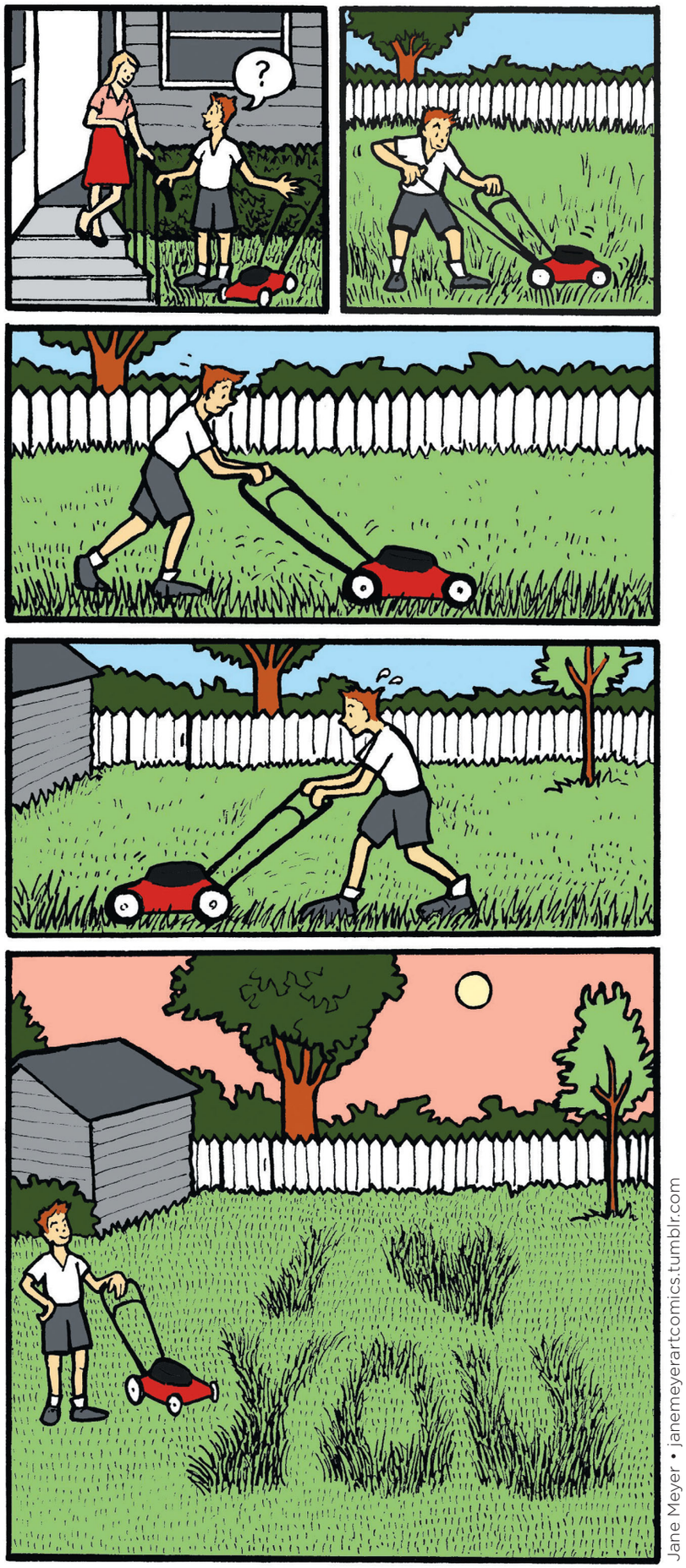

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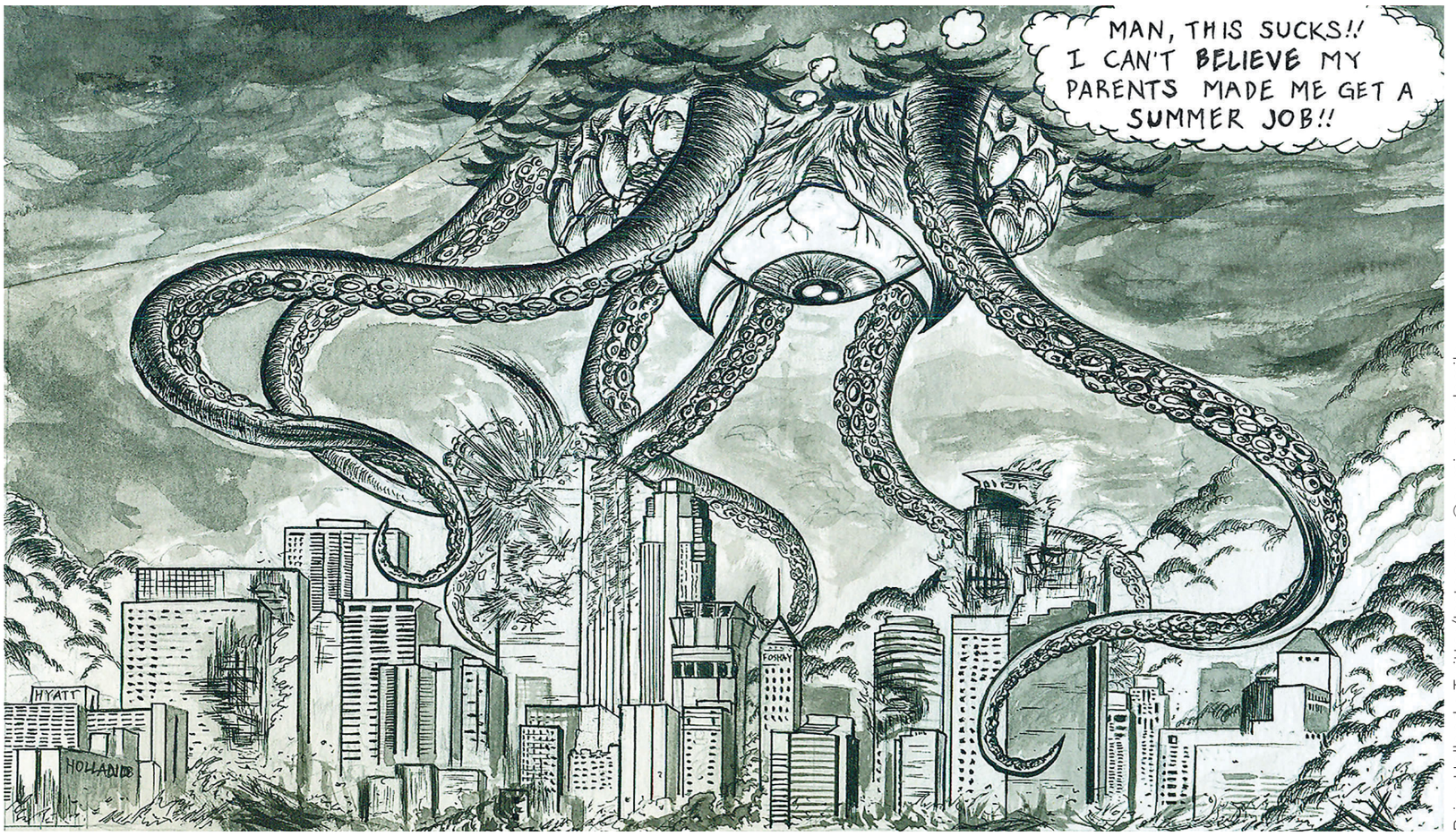

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MEATLESS MOONSHOTS

Eating your way through America's most vegan-friendly ballpark

BY CHARLIE GILLMER

In June, PETA announced its annual list of the 10 most vegan-friendly stadiums in Major League Baseball. Sitting in first place: Minnesota's own Target Field.

As a lifelong Twins fan and a vegan for about a year and a half, I'd already enjoyed some of the animal-free food at the ballpark. But I wanted to find out what makes Target Field the most vegan-friendly in the country, so I reached out to Kurt Chenier, the stadium's executive chef, to learn more.

"Honestly, we don't sell a lot of these items," Chenier says. But they haven't stopped selling vegan food, because "Over the years we have strived to be well-rounded with our food offerings." Providing plant-based options is the natural progression of that.

Still, knowing there was a commitment to vegan options wasn't enough for me. I had to test it all out for myself. So when the Twins took to the field against the Kansas City Royals earlier this month, I wandered the park in an attempt to find my favorites.

My first stop was Bat & Barrel, a new restaurant for 2018, which features items from a handful of other local eateries—including Hell's Kitchen's Impossible Burger—which I'd heard good things about over the summer.

At both Hell's Kitchen and Bat & Barrel, the Impossible Burger is marketed as vegetarian, so I wasn't sure what to expect. I asked a couple of employees how vegan the burger was, exactly, and was deferred by the first before getting a less than 100 percent confident answer from the second. Eventually, my server went back and asked the chef, returning to inform me that the patty was vegan but the bun and accompanying aioli were not. And the fries are fried in the same oil as some of their meat items, making them less than ideal to many vegans.

With everything straightened out and a side salad offered in place of fries—two points in favor of the vegan experience—I dug in. It was good. It didn't taste quite like beef, but it certainly didn't taste worse. Same for the texture, which was just a bit more sinewy than your typical hamburger. I liked it, but someone with a little fear of stringiness will want to top it with tomatoes, lettuce, and onion to mask any differences.

Happy with the burger, I headed down to Hot Indian, where I had two choices: the Aloo Gobi Rice Bowl and the Aloo Gobi Indi Salad. I waffled back and forth before deciding on the rice bowl because, like many vegans, I live by Homer Simpson's words: "You don't win friends with salad." Shoutout to Target Field for knowing that baseball-loving vegans still want ballpark food.

On the concourse, vegan menu items are specifically labeled as such, which makes it much easier to order here. Unfortunately, I still needed clarification on the optional hot sauce. One server didn't know its ingredients; the other was pretty sure it wasn't vegan. I opted to skip it, not wanting to take the risk. I contacted Hot Indian after the fact and learned that it actually is vegan. At least the staff had the decency not to assume it was good to go! Hot sauce or no, this dish was tasty—everything you could ask for from a curry-based entree, with a little sweetness added in.

Next at bat was a brat from the Herbivorous Butcher. Again, these are labeled vegan to avoid any confusion, but this time there was no questioning the condiments. Confident in the quality of the meat substitute alone, the stand offers nothing more than onions in addition to the standard ketchup, mustard and relish. In both the Sriracha brat and the Italian sausage, the texture and flavor are top notch, and the staff prepares them just as well as any restaurant that peddles the brand's products.

I also paid a visit to Pizza Lucé. The Target Field Lucé offers both slices and whole pies, but unfortunately they only whip up their Daiya-topped vegan option as a whole pizza. I considered saddling up with one all to myself but ultimately opted against it. That said, I have had Pizza Lucé's vegan options at their restaurants, and I

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consider it the second-best vegan pizza in the Twin Cities. Assuming Target Field's is anywhere close to the restaurant version, it's well worth a purchase.

After a few innings (with the Twins in the lead), I went for a vegan dog. These dogs, as well as the vegan burgers, are provided by Field Roast, and can be found at Hennepin Grill concession stands.

Even in my meat-eating years, I didn't like hot dogs (thanks to a Super Bowl party gone wrong at age 4), so before this adventure I'd only tried the vegan burgers. I'm happy to report I enjoyed the vegan dog better than its "real" counterpart. It has the texture and the flavor of the best hot dogs out there—good enough that if you felt like tricking a meat-eater, you could. The same can't quite be said for the burger, though it's not far off. It's a little blander, and a little drier than a beef patty, but it still gets the job done. Best of all, the vegan dog and burger are just $5 and $6, respectively. Go to any professional sports stadium in the country and you'll struggle to find anything rivaling that bargain.

After four main courses I was craving something sweet, so I checked out a few Izzy's Ice Cream stands around the park and noticed one had a flavor labeled non-dairy. Unfortunately, this stand was closed for the game. (Two rain delays and lower attendance meant not everybody was open.) I checked with Izzy's later on and learned they haven't gone through vegan certification, but most of the non-dairy flavors are entirely plant-based. Most vegans would be content ordering one of these after double-checking the ingredients.

Otherwise, you can always investigate what candy's at the concession stands, and see if your favorite vegan option is available. If you're the type of fan for whom "Take Me Out To the Ballgame" is gospel, you'll be happy to know you can follow your non-honey-roasted peanuts with Cracker Jack, which happens to be vegan.

By the time the Twins finished off the Royals as handily as I polished off my plant-based plates, I had no reason to doubt that Target Field is the best ballpark for vegans. Unless you really want seven different vegan entrees, you're in good shape, and besides having the options, most are well-labeled—more than I can say about every other large venue I've been to in my life.

Sure, you may have trouble getting correct info from your servers. But they're dealing with lower-selling items while helping tens of thousands of customers in about a five-hour window, so I don't fault them for not knowing what's vegan.

Plus, they still put in the effort to help me as much as they could. Expecting any better would be asking Target Field to be a baseball-friendly restaurant, instead of the vegan-friendly ballpark it definitely is. CP

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A LIST

FRIDAY AfreakCON geeks out with cosplay **P. 23** **SATURDAY** Food trucks park en masse in St. Paul **P. 26** **SUNDAY** Drink beer from Northeast brewers **P. 26**

THURSDAY 8.16

Como Park celebrates Japanese Obon Festival

BRIAN PETERSON, STAR TRIBUNE

THEATER

'NIGHT, MOTHER

GRAIN BELT WAREHOUSE

In playwright Marsha Norman's *'Night, Mother*, suicidal Jessie is a divorced 30-something whose daily routine, though admittedly mundane, isn't inordinately distressing. In fact, simple comforts govern the household in which Jessie lives with her mother, Thelma. Jessie's matter-of-fact admission of her suicide plans shatters that facade of contentment, leaving Thelma to alternately cajole, bargain, and plead with her daughter to change her mind. As a dramatic work, *'Night, Mother* is bracingly intimate, stripping away theatrics to confront the mortal struggle of two characters bound by love but lacking in understanding. In the hands of Dark & Stormy Productions, the play also promises an acting tour-de-force from two of the Twin Cities' most mesmerizing talents, Sally Wingert and Sara Marsh. Directed by Hayley Finn, associate artistic director at the Playwrights' Center, this bold staging exposes the loneliness that haunts far too many lives and seeks empathy in the catharsis of understanding. 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays, plus Sunday and Monday, August 19-20, and Wednesdays starting August 29. $34-$39; $15 if under 30. 77 13th Ave. N. Studio 202, Minneapolis; 612-401-4506. **Through September 8 —BRAD RICHASON**

COMEDY

BEN ROY

RICK BRONSON'S HOUSE OF COMEDY

"I was never really interested in doing standup," admits comedian Ben Roy. "I think I was kind of an angry kid. I was grumpy and really didn't feel like I had a place." The Maine native channeled that teen angst into rock 'n' roll, joining a band that played covers of songs by groups like Green Day and Weezer when he was 15. A year later, he formed a punk band that did original material. He moved to Colorado as an adult, where he decided to further pursue a music career while his wife got a job at the Comedy Works in Denver. "I tried to talk her out of it," he recalls, "because I thought comedy sucked. Thankfully, she took the job and altered the course of the rest of my life." Roy spent a lot of time at the venue hanging out with his wife and her co-workers, where he made everyone laugh. At the behest of the club's general manager, he tried an open mic. That experience changed his perception of standup. He's still active in music as a member of the band Spells. Meanwhile, his standup set includes tales about traveling and whatever else is going on in his life. "I like relating everyone's experience as human beings." 16+. 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 9:45 p.m. Friday; 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday; 9:30 p.m. Saturday. $16-$23. 408 E. Broadway, Mall of America, Bloomington; 952-858-8558. **Through Sunday —P.F. WILSON**

DANCE

RHYTHMICALLY SPEAKING

THE SOUTHERN THEATER

Jazz dance is alive, well, and evolving in the Twin Cities, and Erinn Liebhard's dance group is helping to lead the way. In celebration of Rhythmically Speaking's 10th anniversary, such local choreographic luminaries as Laura Selle-Virtucio, Karla Grotting, and Leila Awadallah, as well as Dallas-based dance maker Brandi Coleman, have created new works for the company. Here is jazz dance infused with a variety of perspectives and movement styles, firmly rooted in the power of emotional resonance and rhythmic intensity. Find tickets and more info at rhythmicallyspeakingdance.org. 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday; 2 p.m. Saturday. $20-$23. 1420 S. Washington Ave., Minneapolis; 612-326-1811. **Through Saturday —CAMILLE LEFEVRE**

COMEDY

CHRIS GETHARD

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Standup comedian Chris Gethard's résumé is eclectic. Many may know him as the host of TruTV's recently canceled *The Chris Gethard Show*, an anything-goes variety program that wore its weirdness on its sleeve. His podcast, *Beautiful Stories from Anonymous People*, features phone conversations of painful or funny stories from anyone who happens to call him. These endeavors highlight Gethard's love of the absurd, but he is a warm, personable performer. His recent HBO special, *Career Suicide*, focused

THURSDAY

FILM

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When the Walker Art Center decides to get in on the movies and music in the park scene, usually there's nary a blockbuster on the schedule. Instead, the museum goes deep, screening films that time forgot—but shouldn't. This summer, they'll once again screen avant-garde oddities from other eras on their lawn. The lineup includes Walter Ruttmann's abstract animated film series *Lichtspiel: Opus I-IV* (1921–25), and *Berlin: Symphony of a Great City* (1927). They'll also share Charles Sheeler and Paul Strand's *Manhatta* (1920-21), and *The Sinking of the Lusitania* (1918), featuring the work of animation pioneer Winsor McCay. Martin Dosh and the Dosh Quintet will play live tunes to certain selections, and food trucks serving up eats will round out the evening. 8:30 p.m. Free. 725 Vineland Place, Minneapolis; 612-375-7600. **—JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

on his experiences with anxiety and depression. He also has a book about those experiences, *Lose Well*, coming out in October. But despite all of that on his plate, his upcoming three-night stint at Acme will be straightforward comedy. "No artsy experiments," he says, "just lock and load, let's go." 18+. 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday; 10:30 p.m. Saturday. $22. 708 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6393. **Through Saturday —DAVID BRUSIE**

FRIDAY 8.17

THEATER

DR. FALSTAFF AND THE WORKING WIVES OF LAKE COUNTY: A PICNIC OPERETTA

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

"Where we're at is where I hoped to be, in terms of the geographical reach of the project and the community around folks who dedicate their summer to coming together to make this work," says Scotty Reynolds, Mixed Precipitation's artistic director. There were precedents for shows resembling the company's picnic operetta—an itinerant blend of classical music, pop songs, and foodie fiesta—but it was still ambitious to imagine that the production would last for 10 summers, as it now has. This year's inspiration is *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, an opera composed by Otto Nicolai (1810-1849), with added songs by Bruce Springsteen. A landmark mining case in the Arrowhead Region, where Reynolds grew up, will also play into the plot. Mining can be a hot-button topic, but Reynolds says he's hoping to take an "even-handed and humorous" approach that evokes "the look and feel of late-'70s, early-'80s northern Minnesota." That environment, he says, "has been deeply embedded in my soul, my heart." $10-$20 suggested donation. Make reservations by calling 1-800-838-3006, or visit mixedprecipitation.org for locations and info. **Through October 7 —JAY GABLER**

NERDERY

AFREAKCON

PILLSBURY HOUSE THEATRE

A few weeks ago, folks gathered at the RiverCentre in St. Paul to celebrate all things geeky. This week's nerd party is smaller in scale, but is sure to be fun. Like any good con, AfreakCON has a theme, as the two-day happening will be showcasing black excellence in comics, sci-fi culture, anime, and gaming. Come in costume and explore all this event has to offer, including a retro video-game arcade, an artists' alley, and talks ranging from academic to joyfully silly. Snack on sugary cereal and milk while watching Saturday-morning cartoons, or stay up late for the cosplay dance party. Bring the kids if you got 'em, and make friends with fellow local "blerds" (that's black nerds for you less cool people). 2 to 8 p.m. Friday; 2 to 10 p.m. Saturday. Free; $5 suggested donation. RSVP at eventbrite.com. 3501 Chicago Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-825-0459. **Through Saturday —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26 ▶

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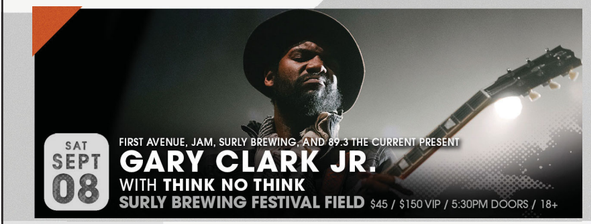

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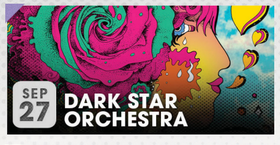

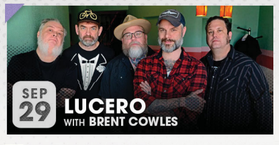

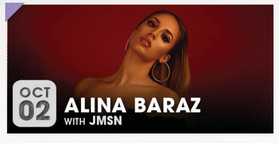

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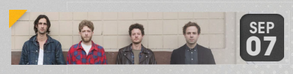
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W/ LO MOON

OCT 06
DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE
W/ CHARLY BLISS

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W/ AQUEOUS

OCT 26
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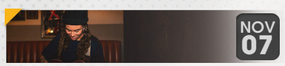
HEAVEN AND EARTH TOUR
W/ BUTCHER BROWN

NOV 04
AN EVENING WITH WEEN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W/ OCEAN ALLEY

NOV 23+24
HIPPO CAMPUS

FEB 02
KACEY MUSGRAVES
OH, WHAT A WORLD: TOUR
W/ LIZA ANNE

UP NEXT 7TH ST ENTRY

BEST CONCERT VENUE - CITY PAGES 2018

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15

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'HATE_R' EP RELEASE PARTY
W/ NAZEEM & SPENCER JOLES, CHANSA, EVAN SLACK, TRAPHOUSE
THURSDAY, AUGUST 16

GHOST OF PAUL REVERE
W/ LUKE CALLEN
FRIDAY, AUGUST 17

HANDMADE MOMENTS
W/ JOE HUNT
SATURDAY, AUGUST 18

TWRP
W/ PLANET BOOTY
SUNDAY, AUGUST 19

AMEN DUNES
W/ OKAY KAYA
MONDAY, AUGUST 20

BLACKALICIOUS
W/ SEAN ANONYMOUS, HAPHDUZN, DIMITRY KILLSTORM
TUESDAY, AUGUST 21

CERAMIC ANIMAL
W/ DRIFTWOOD PYRE, SEAFARER
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22

UP NEXT TURF CLUB

THE LIFE AND TIMES
W/ ANOTHER HEAVEN, SUBTLE BEAST
THURSDAY, AUGUST 16

A NIGHT WITH ANDREW COMBS AND SPECIAL GUEST FRANKIE LEE
FRIDAY, AUGUST 17

MICHIGAN RATTLERS
W/ SAVANNAH SMITH
SUNDAY, AUGUST 19

BRANDON WARDELL
W/ SARAH SHERMAN
TUESDAY, AUGUST 21

HELLZAPOPPIN CIRCUS SIDESHOW REVIEW FT. SWORD SWALLOWING, KNIFE THROWING, BED OF NAILS AND MORE
TUESDAY, AUGUST 21

BIRDTALKER
W/ SONS OF DAUGHTERS
THURSDAY, AUGUST 23

CHUCK PROPHET & THE MISSION EXPRESS
W/ JEREMY & THE HARLEQUINS
FRIDAY, AUGUST 24

LORD HURON (DJ SET)
SATURDAY, AUGUST 25

BLACK PUMAS
SUNDAY, AUGUST 26

JACKIE VENSON
W/ KISS THE TIGER
FRIDAY, AUGUST 31

THE MOONDOGGIES
W/ PARKER GISPERT (OF THE WHIGS), THE FURTHER ADJUSTMENTS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

POOLSIDE
W/ NEIL FRANCES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

BIG BUSINESS
W/ BUILDINGS
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

ROLLING BLACKOUTS COASTAL FEVER
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

STEVE'N'SEAGULLS
W/ RESTLESS LEG STRING BAND
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

WHITE DENIM
W/ ROTEM
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

ROONEY
W/ MATING RITUAL, HALFLOVES
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

BERNHOFT & THE FASHION BRUISES
W/ JAZZO
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

THE MATTSON 2 AND ASTRONAUTS, ETC.
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

PALLBEARER AND TRIBULATION
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

UP NEXT OTHER VENUES

JOE MANDE
W/ BRANDI BROWN, RAGHAV MEHTA
THE CEDAR
THURSDAY, AUGUST 23

AMANDA SHIRES
W/ LEAH BLEVINS
FINE LINE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

PROF OUTDOORS 5
W/ LIL B, MONTANA OF 300, AND MORE
CABOOZE OUTDOOR PLAZA
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

HOT SNAKES
W/ BLAHA, BUTCHER'S UNION
FINE LINE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

toe
W/ JACK GRACE
FINE LINE
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

JAPANESE BREAKFAST
W/ OUGHT
FINE LINE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

ABBARAMA - THE WORLD'S BEST ABBA LIVE EXPERIENCE
FINE LINE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

BLITZEN TRAPPER
W/ CANDACE
FINE LINE
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

FRANKIE COSMOS
W/ LOMELDA, STEF CHURA
FINE LINE
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

HONNE
LOVE ME/LOVE ME NOT WORLD TOUR
FINE LINE
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

HASAN MINHAJ: BEFORE THE STORM
STATE THEATRE
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

BLACK JOE LEWIS & THE HONEYBEARS
W/ PAUL CHERRY
FINE LINE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2

DJANGO DJANGO
W/ THE SHACKS
FINE LINE
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4

MURDER BY DEATH
THE CEDAR
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5

AN EVENING WITH BELLY
FINE LINE
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5

WELCOME TO THE NIGHT VALE
W/ MAL BLUM
PANTAGES THEATRE
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5

JADE BIRD
W/ FIELD REPORT (SOLO)
FINE LINE
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6

TWIN SHADOW
FINE LINE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9

THE VACCINES
W/ JESSE JO STARK
FINE LINE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10

RUPI KAUR
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SATURDAY 8.18

BARHOPPING

ACHTOBERFEST

INSIGHT BREWING

Insight Brewing built its brand on the idea of exploring new customs, cultures, and flavors. This weekend their focus will be everything German. During Achtoberfest, Insight will have a variety of special brews on tap outside: a Märzen-style lager (traditionally served at Oktoberfest), a schwarzbier black lager, a smoked lager, a Berliner Weisse, and their year-round German lager, Royal Nüisance. This Saturday's parking lot party will also feature live music, games, lederhosen, and frequent stein-hoists. Begin the day with Kramarczuk's serving up eats from noon to 4 p.m., and stick around for dinner from the Black Forest Inn from 4 to 10 p.m. Patrons can also mix it up inside, where the brewery's regular menu lineup will be available. All ages. Noon to 10 p.m. Free. 2821 E. Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-722-7222. **—LOREN GREEN**

FESTIVAL

ST. PAUL FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL 2018

MEARS PARK

This weekend, over 40 food trucks will be parking in Mears Park in Lowertown St. Paul to feed the masses. Choose from meaty options (Butcher Salt, New Bohemia), sweets (HomeTown Creamery, Original Hockey Mom's Brownies), fried cheese (O'Cheeze), or spicy eats (Hot Indian Foods). Or try them all; each truck will have at least one $5 item on the menu to promote multi-sampling. The event will also boast live music and drinks, and could be a fun stop if you have plans in downtown St. Paul that evening. Noon to 10 p.m. Free. 221 E. Fifth St., St. Paul. **—JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

FESTIVAL

LITTLE AFRICA FEST

HAMLINE PARK

For the past five years, St. Paul's Midway neighborhood — also known as Little Africa due to its plethora of African shops, restaurants, and residents — has hosted this festival with the help of the African Economic Development Solutions of Minnesota. Little Africa Fest is a wonderful, day-long event that celebrates African culture with music, food, dance, and poetry at Hamline Park. This weekend you can sample delicious food from different vendors, peruse jewelry and art by local creatives, and participate in lots of different family-friendly activities. A stage will showcase performers from all over the continent, from traditional acts to modern music. Be sure to check out the work of Ethiopian-born Binyam Raba, whose painting series, "Givings of a Global Immigrant," debuted earlier this year at the Northern Spark Festival. 1 to 8 p.m. Free. 1564 Lafond Ave., St. Paul. **—SHEILA REGAN**

SUNDAY 8.19

FESTIVAL

AUTOPTIC 2018

ARIA

Print is still alive in 2018. If you need proof, this weekend more than 100 artists from the world of comics, poster art, and other print-based work will come together for the annual Autoptic arts festival. This Sunday, you'll have the chance to check out the goods from special guests like British cartoonist Gabrielle Bell; artist and humorist Jessica Campbell, who recently released the hilarious book *XTC69*, featuring a crew of women searching for men to breed with; and Chuck Forsman, whose comic *The End of the Fucking World* was recently adapted into a Netflix original series of the same name. In addition to the main happening at Aria, the festival will also feature satellite events on Friday and Saturday. These include a kick-off gallery show and reception at Light Grey Art Lab, plus a panel discussion on "What's next for YA comics" and a Craig Thompson spotlight (*Blankets*, *Space Dumplings*) at Moon Palace Books. It's all free to attend, and the main gig will be packed with comic and print fans. Find more info at autoptic.org. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Free. 105 First St. N., Minneapolis; 612-342-2742. **—PATRICK STRAIT**

BARHOPPING

2018 NE BREWERS BLOCK PARTY

SOCIABLE CIDER WERKS

When Minnesotans think of beer, northeast Minneapolis probably springs to mind. This Sunday, beer lovers can try a variety of brews from the brewery-

Autoptic overflows with zines, art, and more

COURTESY OF EVENT ORGANIZERS

COURTESY OF EVENT ORGANIZERS

heavy neighborhood in one location. Sociable Cider Werks is hosting the special celebration, which will boast offerings from 11 different breweries, including Insight, Indeed, HeadFlyer, Fair State, Dangerous Man, Bauhaus, and Able. Music will be provided by Viva Knieval (rock covers), New Primitives (reggae), and Radiochurch (R&B), with food trucks like Anchor Fish & Chips, Bark and the Bite, Cafe Racer, Red River Kitchen, and MN Nice Cream. There will also be an artists' market with Solid State Vinyl Records and folks from Minneapolis Craft Market. A $5 wristband is required to drink, with part of those proceeds going to SACA Food Shelf & Thrift Store. All ages. 2 to 8 p.m. Free; $5 for a drinking wristband; $60 VIP. 1500 Fillmore St. NE, Minneapolis; 612-758-0105. —LOREN GREEN

MARKETS

3RD ANNUAL FLEA MARKET

FIVE WATT COFFEE

Sunday afternoons are made for the following: brunch, bottomless mimosas, the New York Times, and farmers and flea markets. This week, you can try to score something cool, retro, or odd at Five Watt's all-day flea market party. Check out up-cycled threads, locally made art, old vinyl, quirky furniture, and ceramics while downing some iced coffee. Vendors will include Twin Town Guitars, Wanderlust Vintage Market, and the Center for Lost Objects. You might discover some awesome crap, or a valuable gem, but you won't know what you'll find until you dig in and explore. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. 3745 Nicollet Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-259-7519. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

FESTIVAL

JAPANESE OBON FESTIVAL

COMO PARK ZOO & CONSERVATORY

Japanese arts, performance, and traditions will help create a beautiful day in the park in St. Paul. Entertainment at the Japanese Obon Festival will range from bad-ass to zen, with martial arts demonstrations, taiko drumming, traditional dance performances, and lots of live music. Take in a workshop on bonsai art, listen to tunes in the Japanese garden, and meet with local organizations and businesses. Delicious food will be plentiful, with shaved ice, sushi, teppanyaki, and octopus fritters on the menu. As the sun goes down, small lanterns will be lit and cast upon the waters of the park, celebrating the Japanese Obon holiday, where the dead visit the living and return to the spiritual world using the lights to guide their way. 3 to 9 p.m. $3-$5. 1225 Estabrook Dr., St. Paul; 651-487-8201. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

TUESDAY 8.21

PERFORMANCE

HELLZAPOPPIN CIRCUS SIDESHOW REVIEW

TURF CLUB

Have you ever spent a Tuesday night watching people eat fire, swallow swords, and walk on hot shards of broken glass with their bare hands? Now you can. You're guaranteed a real-life freak show when the Hellzapoppin Circus Sideshow Review rolls into the Turf Club this week. The group has appeared on *America's Got Talent*, *The Gong Show*, and *The Steve Harvey Show*, performing insane tricks like shooting a man in the neck with a flaming arrow. They've got a crew that includes the "world's smallest midget escape artist," expert knife throwers, people seemingly immune to pain, and Hellzapoppin's creator and stuntman, Bryce Graves. Illusions, beds of nails, and acrobatic stunts will all be on display, but without all of the annoying blood and pain that usually comes with it. It's the perfect date-night show, or round up your co-workers for a late evening of relaxing cocktails and watching a dude drill directly into his sinus cavity. 21+. 9:30 p.m. $15. 1601 University Ave. W., St. Paul; 651-647-0486. —PATRICK STRAIT

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FILM

MONEY HONEY

In *Crazy Rich Asians*, a secretly wealthy boyfriend and his openly hostile mom

It's like a Disney princess movie—with a few significant twists.

SANJA BUCKO

BY TONY LIBERA

In 2018 in America, any feature film with a mostly non-white cast is big news. So it's impossible to separate a movie like *Crazy Rich Asians*, the adaptation of Kevin Kwan's book of the same name, from its broader social context. Of course it's significant and another step in the right direction for Hollywood, but *Crazy Rich Asians* also has surprising depth, especially for a rom-com.

The movie focuses on NYU economics professor Rachel Chu (Constance Wu), daughter of a single immigrant mother. Rachel is madly in love with a guy named Nick Young (Henry Golding), so when he asks her to attend his best friend's wedding in Singapore and meet his family, she gets excited to head East. Apparently in the year that they've dated, Rachel has never once Googled her beau (or asked him nearly enough about his family), because if she had, she'd know that Nick comes from Singaporean real estate royalty.

After flying overseas in an extravagant first-class suite, Rachel finds herself face-to-face with an opulence that makes Jay Gatsby look like Fred Flintstone. She's also introduced to Nick's mother, Eleanor (Michelle Yeoh), a lady who doesn't take any shit and who makes it very clear to Rachel that the young Chinese-American will never be enough for her son or for their traditional family.

So *Crazy Rich Asians* is basically a Disney princess movie, only this time Prince Charming feels like more of a side quest, and our heroine uses game theory to battle the evil "stepmother." But beyond the surface, this is less a Cinderella story and more of an exploration of modern womanhood, the complexities of Asian-ness, and what it means to be a hyphenate both in the U.S. and abroad. The first act drags because it feels like a typical rom-com setup, but as Rachel confronts the various issues plaguing her—Eleanor being chief among them—the movie finds a groove.

Crazy Rich Asians isn't without its blemishes. The movie never commits fully to rom or com, so it can feel bland in the stretch before the drama with Eleanor heats up. There's also a B plot featuring Nick's cousin Astrid (Gemma Chan) that feels half-baked, which is a shame because she's one of the movie's more interesting characters.

And then there are a couple of social issues—the 1 percent and LGBT politics—that are hardly touched. I know, I know; it's supposed to be a rom-com. But economics-teaching Rachel is essentially dating the Asian Donald Trump Jr. and hangs out with the "rainbow sheep" of the family, Oliver (Nico Santos), in a country where you can still be imprisoned for homosexuality. The movie does a good enough job with its other subjects that you'd expect to find some poignancy here.

All things considered, *Crazy Rich Asians*' value in other areas makes up for what it misses. Look beyond the trappings of your basic rom-com; there are enough subversions and novelty to make this both a success within the genre and a step forward for American moviemaking.

CRAZY RICH ASIANS
directed by Jon M. Chu
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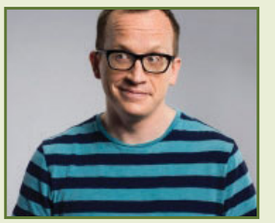

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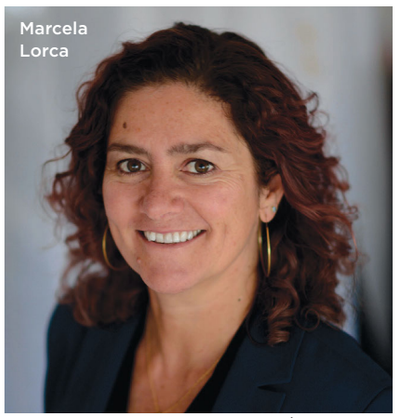
THEATER

NEW DIRECTIONS

Changing leaders bring fresh voices to local theater



COURTESY PARK SQUARE THEATRE / COURTESY TTT

BY JAY GABLER

As the 2010s began, there was a growing recognition across the Twin Cities theater community that there needed to be real change across the leadership of our largest companies. A major wave of turnovers was on the horizon, and the departing directors couldn't just be replaced with another round of mostly white men if the companies wanted to maintain their integrity—and their audiences.

That wave of change has now crested, with diverse new leaders helming the Guthrie, the Jungle, and Penumbra. As the 2018-19 season begins, two more significant companies have new leaders who are pledging to build on their predecessors' accomplishments while forging new paths.

At Ten Thousand Things, a company widely lauded for bringing top-quality productions to non-traditional audiences, founder Michelle Hensley argued passionately for the need to promote more women. She'll be succeeded by the Chilean-American Marcela Lorca, who's worked at the Guthrie as a director, teacher, and administrator since the '90s.

When Hensley delivered a powerful speech about inclusion at the 2017 Iveys, "It was in the forefront of my mind," Lorca says, "because I wanted to be the leader of an institution, and I had faced a lot of obstacles along the way." She plans to continue to develop Ten Thousand Things' national reach while maintaining the organization's strong local roots.

Meanwhile, Richard Cook is retiring after 38 years leading Park Square Theatre, handing the reins to Flordelino Lagundino, a theater artist of Filipino descent who's worked at a range of small and mid-size companies across the country.

Part of Lagundino's job will be to continue the St. Paul company's engagement with its downtown neighborhood, where it sits just across Seventh Place from the newly renovated Palace Theatre.

Lagundino says Park Square is acutely aware of its role in placemaking. "We're trying to find ways to enliven that space," he says. Engaging the community more broadly, adds Lagundino, will mean continuing Cook's progress toward making the theater a venue where "people that have felt othered in their lives" regard as "a place they can call home."

Whereas the upcoming Park Square season was picked before Lagundino arrived, Lorca chose and will direct two of the three shows in the upcoming Ten Thousand Things season: *Into the Woods* opens in February, and *The Sins of Sor Juana* will follow in May.

"It's a challenge to do it in the essential style of Ten Thousand Things," says Lorca about Stephen Sondheim's sprawling *Into the Woods*, "but I think that style will really force it to be incredibly creative and inventive."

The Sins of Sor Juana is a historical drama by Karen Zacarias (*Native Gardens*). "It's about a woman artist trying to really prove herself and find her place in society," Lorca says. "How do you keep your soul alive, how do you keep your artistry alive when you have these obstacles all around you?"

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STREET *Style*

PARTY PEOPLE Fashion finds at Pizza Luce Block Party on August 11. **BY PIERRE WARE**

SABRINA FORD

19, APPAREL DESIGNER

What are you wearing?
Souvenir silk button-up, customized thrifted jeans, and Vans.

Describe your style:
Androgynous skatewear with a touch of '70s femme. It will usually alternate between the two or settle in the middle.

Where do you get styling inspiration?
Old '70s mod magazines and rapper Instagram pages.

If you could pull from anyone's closet whose would it be?
Definitely Playboi Carti. I don't know if I actually like him or just want to be him.

EFFY KAWIRA

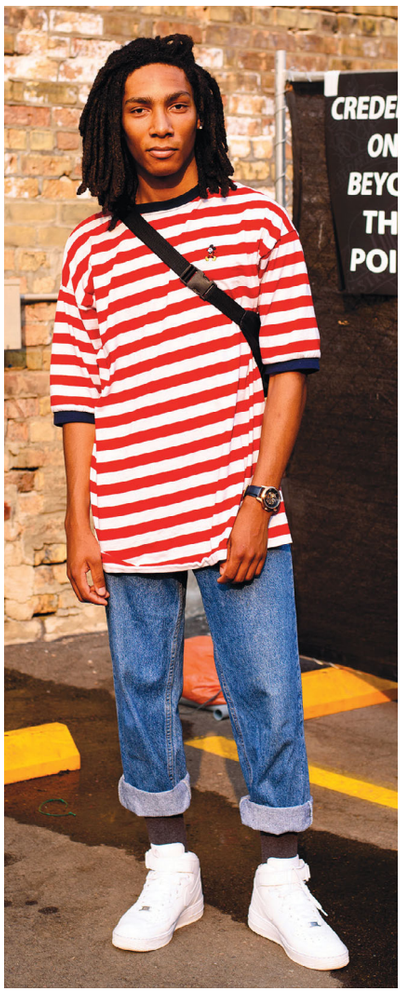
24, FILMMAKER, FINANCIAL ANALYST

What are you wearing?
Forever 21 top, thrifted belt, Zara shoes, a gifted skirt, one of my mother's old vintage bags.

Describe your style:
My style changes often but at the moment it's very vibrant and '90s inspired.

Where do you get styling inspiration?
A lot of places. I love looking at my parents' old photographs ... as well as films and magazines.

If you could pull from anyone's closet whose would it be?
It's a hard choice. It would have to be Solange, Dita Von Teese, or Missy Elliott.



LUTALO JONES

19, MUSICIAN/PRODUCER

What are you wearing?
Levis jeans, Air Force 1 shoes, red-and-white-striped Mickey Mouse Tee with a black leather fanny pack.

Describe your style:
Eclectic.

Where do you get styling inspiration?
My friends and anime.

If you could pull from anyone's closet whose would it be?
I don't really have the desire to take style from others, but I'd definitely take stuff from my dad's closet.

SUMAYA MOALLIN

21, FULL-TIME MOTHER OF THREE CATS, MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER

What are you wearing?
My jeans are thrifted and altered by my mom, the shirt was a dress from Zara until three hours before this photo was taken and I cut it into a tank, the glasses are hand-me-downs from family.

Describe your style:
Comfort and obsession. If I have a favorite piece of clothing I'll find a way to work it into all my outfits at least three times in the week until I discover or rediscover something else.

If you could pull from anyone's closet whose would it be?
Probably Vashtie's closet.

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AUG 18
7 PM
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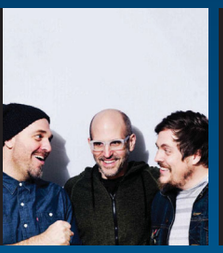
AUG 19
7 & 9 PM
Rebirth Brass Band

AUG 20
7 & 9 PM
Eliane Elias

AUG 22
7 PM
Thomasina Petrus Sings Lady Day – The Best of Billie and Me

AUG 23
7 PM
Mae Simpson Band

AUG 24
7 & 9:30 PM
Happy Apple
w/ David King, Erik Fratzke & Michael Lewis



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7 PM
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AUG 26
6 & 8 PM
Asleep at the Wheel

AUG 27
7 PM
A Journey Through the Life of Jearlyn Steele

AUG 28
7 & 9 PM
Poco

AUG 29
7 PM
Global Rights for Women Benefit
with Ruthie Foster

AUG 30
7 PM
Roosevelt Collier

AUG 31
7 PM
Joyann Parker Band

SEP 1
7 PM
Johnnie Brown & KJ
(Teddy Pendergrass Tribute) with Sounds of Philly

SEP 2
7 & 9 PM
Mina Moore presents "Back to Black: A Tribute to Amy Winehouse"

JERARD FAGERBERG

PRODIGAL PRODIGY

Hard_R is P.O.S's son. But that's not all he is.

BY JERARD FAGERBERG

Hard_R raps like he's trying to provoke you to attack him. He delivers his arrogant verses with a fuck-the-haters vindictiveness. He's everything a 19-year-old rapper should be.

And he's nothing like his father.

The real-life Jacob Crabtree is easily recognizable as the son of Doomtree/Rhymesayers rapper P.O.S. You can hear the similarity in his gruff voice and careful articulation. You can see it in his wide-set eyes and rascal sneer and the way he twists a dreadlock in his hand as he speaks.

In the past, Hard_R has taken caustic measures to set himself apart. Instead of Slug and Dessa, he's running around with young hellions like RP Hooks and Gaines FM. On the snot-nosed "Hard_R Is Ruining My Life," he rhymes, "Feeling shady, get the groupies/Put my Doomtree in her coochie."

But Hard_R has arrived at a point of maturity. On Thursday, he'll release his new EP, *Hate_R*. Though the musical scion may have burned his birth certificate on his 2016 debut, *Lost in Myself, Hate_R* seeks to repair what was lost in the fire.

"One of my biggest fears since I started doing this was living in my dad's shadow," Hard_R says. "I was like, 'I'll never be like my dad!' But as I've gotten older, I've realized that's not so bad."

Music came to Hard_R through his father. He fondly remembers P.O.S handing him a guitar and teaching him how to play "Iron Man" on one string, and the punk rock that the two would listen to on car rides has indelibly shaped his style. Like his dad, Hard_R tried his hand at spoken-word poetry in high school, but it wasn't long before his peers encouraged him to go full-bore into hip-hop.

"I don't think we raised him to be a musician, and almost no one should be a rapper," P.O.S says. "He showed me some stuff he was working on when he was like 13 or 14, [and] that was better than it had any business being. So I encouraged it. But I was never grooming him to take over the family business or anything."

Hard_R's earliest work is raw and experimental. Listening to *Lost in Myself* and the few SoundCloud castoffs that precede it, you can hear the progress of a new rapper clawing together his own identity. On "Sauced Up" he's trying on Lil Pump's aesthetic; on "Broken Wings," he's wearing Travi$ Scott's skin. But *Hate_R* represents a higher standard. It's still rough and in-your-face, but Hard_R sounds more determined. It's the first time he's rapped with a directive—specifically, redemption.

"I'm pretty proud of it, honestly, it's my baby," Hard_R says of *Hate_R*. "I'm trying to make music that will make my family proud of me. Real life."

HARD_R
Release party for Hate_R
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8 p.m. Thursday, August 16

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JON STICKLEY TRIO
with Root River Jam
Doors 7pm • Show 7:30pm • All Ages • $15 GA

Tuesday, August 21
The Cedar and KFAI Present
GUILHEM DESQ *with The Nunnery*
Doors 7pm • Show 7:30pm • All Ages • $12 adv / $15 dos

Thursday, August 23
First Avenue Presents
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Hard_R spent his adolescence doing the opposite. He started by sneaking into clubs and getting involved with dealers. He's been to treatment for chemical dependency nine times. Currently, he's on adult diversion—an education-heavy program for keeping young offenders out of jail—for a drug charge, but he's committed to bettering himself, and that process begins with devoting himself more fully to his music.

His plea for retribution comes on "Eighth Step." Inspired by the Alcoholics Anonymous program, the song "Eighth Step" confronts the fact that his habits are what's holding him back from greatness. Taking on a howl similar to his father's, *Hate_R* casts away all those who tempt him away from his hard-won sobriety. "I caught a break on my case," he raps, "I got too much to live up to/Mom, I'm sorry I'm this way."

"I put my parents through a lot of shit growing up, running around, getting in trouble, making them look bad," Hard_R says. "I didn't want to continue to hurt people, my family included, or maybe die."

For Hard_R, success means transcending his influences, whether it be Lil Pump or P.O.S. *Hate_R* is all about Hard_R pushing himself to find his own way and digging down into his own essence to unearth something unique. On *Hate_R* opening track "Judge Jury Executioner," he takes on three distinct personas to analyze his position in life. At the end, he walks away with the realization that no one is going to achieve his greatness for him.

Most rappers define themselves in opposition to the people who don't like them. You know, the haters. But for Hard_R, the biggest obstacle in his career has been himself—his vices, his pugnacious attitude, his inability to deal with the legacy he was born into. So he turns that rage inward, taking responsibility for holding himself back and copping to the bullshit behavior that's made him who he is.

"I'm a fuckin' hater, everyone's a fuckin' hater," Hard_R says. "People want to project that they're not a hater and they only got haters, and they're still over here hatin'. Rappers especially. I struggle with that shit."

For all its progress, *Hate_R* is still embryonic. Hard_R may well look back on the record and disown it for not being as sophisticated as whatever incarnation he's onto by then. *Hate_R* will, however, persist as a time capsule of a young rapper trying to overcome a series of unique challenges, documenting the come-up of one of Minneapolis' first second-generation rappers.

But you can expect Hard_R to hold on to his acerbic mindset. He might be more clear-headed and motivated than ever, but it's that negativity that keeps him going. Without it, he'd just be another rapper.

"I'm my biggest critic," he says. "I'm the ultimate hater."

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MUSIC CRITICS' PICKS

AMEN DUNES

7TH ST ENTRY, MONDAY 8.20

After a decade of modest renown in the indie-verse, 2018 has proven to be a breakthrough year for Amen Dunes, the moniker of Brooklyn singer-songwriter Damon McMahon. Following 2014's *Love*, March's *Freedom* is a crystallization of McMahon's spectral folk sound. While producer Chris Coady and Yeah Yeah Yeahs guitar hero Nick Zinner are key contributors, the album is undeniably a new peak for McMahon as both a singer and songwriter. With Okay Kaya. *18+. 7:30 p.m. $15. 701 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388.* —MICHAEL MADDEN

BLACKALICIOUS

7TH ST. ENTRY, TUESDAY 8.21

Sacramento indie-rap institution Blackalicious debuted with the 1994 EP *Melodica* and eventually dropped their first full-length in 1999's *Nia*, which established the duo—supremely technical rapper Gift of Gab and DJ/producer Chief Xcel—as leaders in the realm of conscious rap. After a decade-long hiatus, Gab and Xcel made their worthy return with 2015's uplifting *Imani Vol. 1*, the first installment in a planned trilogy, though the follow-ups have yet to materialize. *18+. 7:30 p.m. $25/$28. 701 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388.* —MICHAEL MADDEN

BLACK TUSK

SKYWAY THEATRE, WEDNESDAY 8.15

Dubbing their sound "swamp metal," Black Tusk combine metal subgenres (sludge, stoner, thrash) with hardcore punk. Formed in 2005, they broke through half a decade later upon joining Relapse Records. Their long-awaited follow-up to 2011's *Set the Dial* was 2016's *Pillars of Ash*, marking the end of an era; it was their last album with bassist Jonathan Athon, who died following a motorcycle accident. The band's first LP without him, *T.C.B.T.*, is out Friday. With Whores. *18+. 7 p.m. $15. 711 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-333-6100.* —MICHAEL MADDEN

SLEIGH BELLS

FINE LINE MUSIC CAFE, THURSDAY 8.16

Listening to Brooklyn duo Sleigh Bells when they first emerged in 2010 came with the thrilling sense of something new—a unique convergence of guitar noise and pop. Their music since then hasn't had that same factor, but from the more metallic *Reign of Terror* in 2012 to last year's socio-politically minded *Kid Kruschev*, singer Alexis Krauss and guitarist Derek Miller have amassed a full arsenal of explosively catchy songs. With Torres. *18+. 7:30 p.m. $25/$35. 318 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8100.* —MICHAEL MADDEN

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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

>> By Rob Brezsny

ARIES (March 21–April 19): "The prettier the garden, the dirtier the hands of the gardener," writes aphorist B. E. Barnes. That'll be especially applicable to you in the coming weeks. You'll have extra potential to create and foster beauty, and any beauty you produce will generate practical benefits for you and those you care about. But for best results, you'll have to expend more effort than maybe you thought you should. It might feel more like work than play—even though it will ultimately enhance your ability to play.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): Author and theologian Thomas Merton thought that the most debilitating human temptation is to settle for too little; to live a comfortable life rather than an interesting one. I wouldn't say that's always true about you, Taurus. But I do suspect that in the coming weeks, a tendency to settle for less could be the single most devitalizing temptation you'll be susceptible to. That's why I encourage you to resist the appeal to accept a smaller blessing or punier adventure than you deserve. Hold out for the best and brightest.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): "I've learned quite a lot, over the years, by avoiding what I was supposed to be learning." So says the wise and well-educated novelist Margaret Atwood. Judging by your current astrological omens, I think this is an excellent clue for you to contemplate right now. What do you think? Have you been half-avoiding any teaching that you or someone else thinks you're "supposed" to be learning? If so, I suggest you avoid it even stronger. Avoid it with cheerful rebelliousness. Doing so may lead you to what you really need to learn about next.

CANCER (June 21–July 22): Sometimes you make it difficult for me to reach you. You act like you're listening but you're not really listening. You semi-consciously decide that you don't want to be influenced by anyone except yourself. When you lock me out like that, I become a bit dumb. My advice isn't as good or helpful. The magic between us languishes. Please don't do that to me now. And don't do it to anyone who cares about you. I realize that you may need to protect yourself from people who aren't sufficiently careful with you. But your true allies have important influences to offer, and I think you'll be wise to open yourself to them.

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22): "Whoever does not visit Paris regularly will never really be elegant," wrote French author Honoré de Balzac. I think that's an exaggeration, but it does trigger a worthwhile meditation. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, you're in a phase of your cycle when you have maximum power to raise your appreciation of elegance, understand how it could beautify your soul, and add more of it to your repertoire. So here are your homework meditations: What does elegance mean to you? Why might it be valuable to cultivate elegance, not just to enhance your self-presentation, but also to upgrade your relationship with your deep self? (P.S.: Fashion designer Christian Dior said, "Elegance must be the right combination of distinction, naturalness, care, and simplicity.")

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): Many of us imagine medieval Europe to have been drab and dreary. But historian Jacques Le Goff tells us that the people of that age adored luminous hues: "big jewels inserted into book-bindings, glowing gold objects, brightly painted sculpture, paintings covering the walls of churches, and the colored magic of stained glass." Maybe you'll be inspired by this revelation, Virgo. I hope so. According to my reading of the astrological omens, you can activate sleeping wisdom and awaken dormant energy by treating your eyes to lots of vivid reds, greens, yellows, blues, browns, oranges, purples, golds, blacks, coppers, and pinks.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): An astrologer on Tumblr named Sebastian says this about your sign: "Libras can be boring people when they don't trust you enough to fully reveal themselves. But they can be just as exciting as any fire sign and just as weird as any Aquarius and just as talkative as a Gemini and just as empathetic as a Pisces. Really, Librans are some of the most eccentric people you'll ever meet, but you might not know it unless they trust you enough to take their masks off around you." Spurred by Sebastian's analysis, here's my advice to you: I hope you'll spend a lot of time with people you trust in the coming weeks, because for the sake of your mental and physical and spiritual health, you'll need to express your full eccentricity. (Sebastian's at http://venuspapi.tumblr.com.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): A blogger who calls herself Wistful Giselle has named the phenomena that make her "believe in magic." They include the following: "illuminated dust in the air; the moments when a seedling sprouts; the intelligence gazing back at me from a crow's eyes; being awaken by the early morning sun; the energy of storms; old buildings overgrown with plants; the ever-changing grey green blue moods of the sea; the shimmering moon on a cool, clear night." I invite you to compile your own list, Scorpio. You're entering a time when you will be the beneficiary of magic in direct proportion to how much you believe in and are alert for magic. Why not go for the maximum?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): Since 1969, eight-foot-two-inch-tall Big Bird has been the star of the kids' TV show *Sesame Street*. He's a yellow bird puppet who can talk, write poetry, dance, and roller skate. In the early years of the show, our hero had a good friend who no one else saw or believed in: Mr. Snuffleupagus. After 17 years, there came a happy day when everyone else in the Sesame Street neighborhood realized that Snuffy was indeed real, not just a figment of Big Bird's imagination. I'm foreseeing a comparable event in your life sometime soon, Sagittarius. You'll finally be able to share a secret truth or private pleasure or unappreciated asset.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): Activist and author Simone de Beauvoir was one of those Capricorns whose lust for life was both lush and intricate. "I am awfully greedy," she wrote. "I want to be a woman and to be a man, to have many friends and to have loneliness, to work much and write good books, to travel and enjoy myself, to be selfish and to be unselfish." Even if your longings are not always as lavish and ravenous as hers, Capricorn, you now have license to explore the mysterious state she described. I dare you to find out how voracious you can be if you grant yourself permission.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): According to my reading of the astrological omens, the coming weeks will be prime time to vividly express your appreciation for and understanding of the people you care about most. I urge you to show them why you love them. Reveal the depths of your insights about their true beauty. Make it clear how their presence in your life has had a beneficent or healing influence on you. And if you really want to get dramatic, you could take them to an inspiring outdoor spot and sing them a tender song or two.

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20): In her book *Yarn: Remembering the Way Home*, Piscean knitter Kyoko Mori writes, "The folklore among knitters is that everything handmade should have at least one mistake so an evil spirit will not become trapped in the maze of perfect stitches." The idea is that the mistake "is a crack left open to let in the light." Mori goes on to testify about the evil spirit she wants to be free of. "It's that little voice in my head that says, 'I won't even try this because it doesn't come naturally to me and I won't be very good at it.'" I've quoted Mori at length, Pisces, because I think her insights are the exact tonic you need right now.

freewillastrology@freewillastrology.com

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331club

wed : august 15
7pm : kfai house party presents
ben cook-feltz
9:30pm : laura hugo, savannah smith, humbird

thu : august 16
9:30pm : thursdays in august with:
gabe barnett & them rounders w/ the common ground company

fri : august 17
7pm : laura and sean's movie and music trivia
10pm : junior varsity (ep release), wild age, joe kopel

sat : august 18
7pm : trivia mafia presents
331 drinkin' spelling bee
10pm : aloha from hell, trash street, fret rattles

sun : august 19
2-4pm : rezo city: resonator guitar player series featuring:
don fitzwater
8pm : trivia mafia

mon : august 20
8pm : the roe family singers
10pm : doug otto and friends

tue : august 21
7-9pm : t.e.e. tuesday early evening
oklahoma
9:30pm : 331 club and fair state brewing cooperative present august conspiracy series feat. nate case & the projects, the lowland lakers, the last jackson

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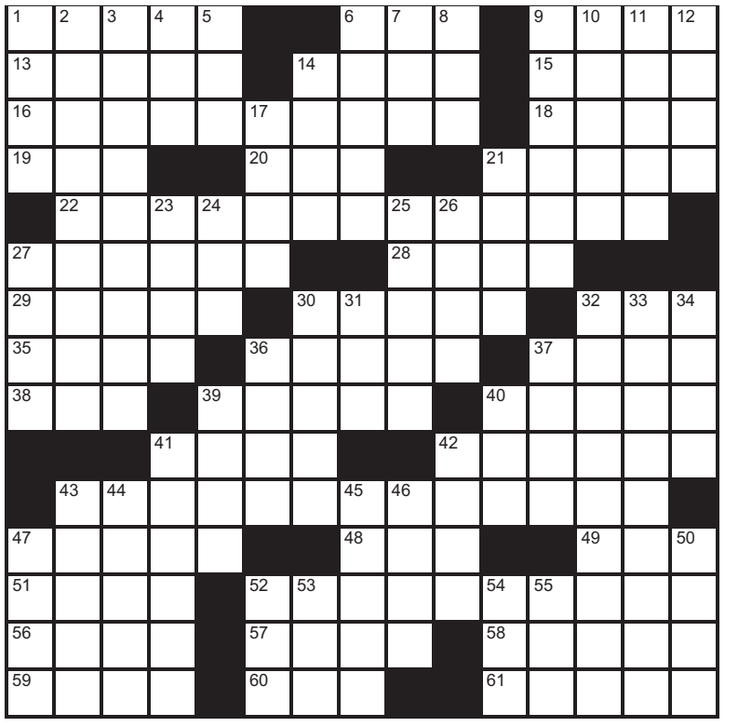

PISSED OFF

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Across

1 "Landmark Cases" channel
6 QR code alternative
9 NBA commissioner Silver
13 Place for some Bears touchdowns
14 The other thing, in Oaxaca
15 Costing nothing
16 Beverage that doesn't make you act like a jerk when you get drunk?
18 It's what's coming to you
19 Wool-providing animal
20 Neither's partner
21 Real do-gooder
22 Hong Kong hair product?
27 Adds a lane
28 Know ___ Meme (website)
29 "Oceans Eleven" climax
30 Typeface
32 "Random Acts of Flyness" channel
35 Cold treats
36 Shipping option
37 "The King and I" setting
38 Water bowl user
39 Like not the top talent
40 Suggestion
41 Rouhani's land
42 Quito resident
43 Tournament for hicks?
47 "You with me?"
48 Commotion
49 End the single life
51 Go back to square one
52 Event to get the really good weed?
56 Education acronym
57 They're counted down in perfect games
58 Country singer Steve
59 Truck loads
60 Sharp, as a wit
61 Member of the birch family

Down

1 Deal with
2 Expo spotlight
3 It can help you eat like your ancestors
4 Diamondbacks, on scoreboards
5 Bring-home
6 Twins' first homes
7 Coming before
8 Dollar rental
9 Gossip magazine fodder
10 Sink hole
11 Anthem rival
12 Event when you might have a stroke
14 Orchestra instrument
17 Finishes
21 Keep clear of
23 Private dining room?
24 Member of a colony
25 Noah Syndergaard, e.g.
26 Persuade
27 Indiana Jones weapon
30 Do some tattoo touch ups
31 Goes overboard with the horse
32 Steeler who was the first Korean American to win the Super Bowl MVP
33 Mere nothing
34 Bad sign
36 Custardy dessert
37 Point of view
39 Wine specification
40 Home wrecker?
41 Some long crossword answers
42 Shortly
43 Bean in some burritos
44 Utah city 10 miles east of the Great Salt Lake
45 Subtly cruel
46 Praiseful lines
47 Pledge target
50 Creature caught in headlights
52 Hitting noise
53 In ___ lifetime
54 Brew for breakfast
55 Bill Simmons's podcast buddy "Cousin ___"

Last Week's Answer

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Secret Perving

Fetishes, fantasies, and friends with benefits

Dan Savage

The man I'm going to marry has a huge boot fetish. He has about 200 pairs of boots in his size. His size also happens to be my size—and I'm half convinced he wouldn't have proposed if we didn't have the same size feet and I couldn't wear his boots. I want to surprise him with a very special bachelor party (that we'll both attend): It would be all guys with the same size feet as us, and everyone will be wearing different pairs of boots from his collection. I'm picturing a big group of guys doing for him what I do for him: stand on him, let him lick my (actually, his) boots, make him crawl and grovel. His feet aren't an uncommon size (11.5), and I'm guessing enough of our mutual friends would fit into his boots that I could actually make this happen. He's the only fetishist I've ever been with—all my other boyfriends were vanilla—and I'm wondering how he would react if he walked into a room and found a bunch of his friends wearing his boots, and then I ordered him to start licking. I think it would be way better than going to a strip club or a drag show.

BOYFRIEND OBSESSES OVER TALL SHOES

P.S. He's not really "out" about his kink.

Wow, BOOTS, you saved the most salient detail for that postscript: Your boyfriend isn't out to his friends about his kink. So unless you're talking about a small subset of his friends—only old friends that once had benefits—do not out your boyfriend as a boot fetishist to all his friends with size 11.5 feet. If your fiancé has fantasized about some sort of group boot-worshipping session, and he's shared that fantasy with you, and you want to help him realize it, that's great. But he needs to be involved in determining where, when, how, and with whom he'd like to make this fantasy a reality.

My boyfriend of one year has refused to delete photos from his Instagram account that show him with his ex-girlfriend. They were together for three years and briefly engaged, and they broke up two years before we met. They aren't in contact in any way, so I don't have any worries there, but I think making photos of him with someone else available to his friends and family—and now my friends, too, as many are now following him—is incredibly disrespectful. We've had numerous arguments about this, and his "solution" is for me to "stop thinking about it." He also insists that no one is looking at 5-year-old pictures on his Instagram account. If that's true, why not delete them? He refuses to discuss this issue, even as I lose sleep over it. I've tried calmly discussing this with him, I've tried crying, I've tried screaming my head off—nothing works.

PERSONAL INSULT CAUSING STRESS

There's definitely something your boyfriend should delete, PICS, but it's not old photos of his ex.

> **"Your column is what inspired me to be open about my kinks."**

My bi girlfriend and I are getting married in a month. We're in a cuckold relationship—she sleeps with other men and women, while I am completely monogamous to her—and "my" best man is one of her regular male sex partners and her maid of honor is one of her girlfriends-with-benefits. No one else at our big traditional church wedding (that her mother is paying for) will know. But I wanted to let you know, Dan, since reading your column is what inspired me to be open about my kinks, and our relationship—the best I've ever been in—wouldn't exist without you.

THE HAPPY COUPLE

Permissible, secret perving at its finest/hottest, THC. Thanks for sharing, and be sure to send me a photo of the wedding party for my records.

mail@savagelove.net
Follow Dan on Twitter: @fakedansavage
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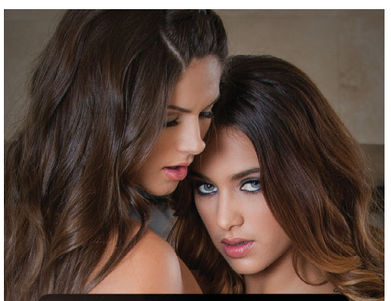

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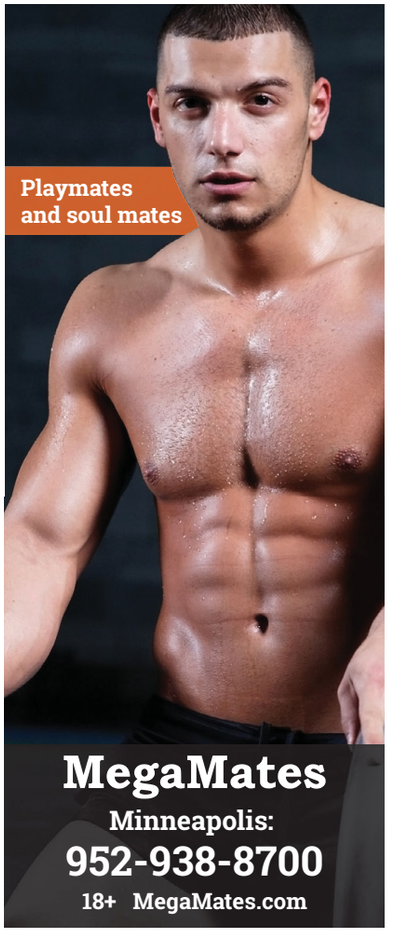
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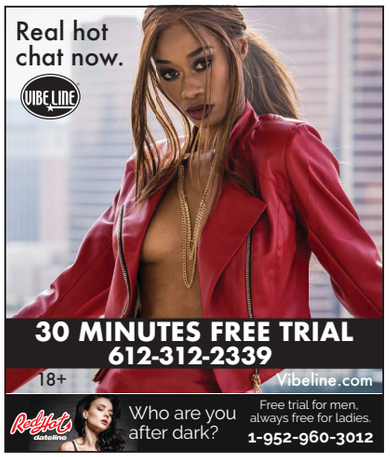
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